Gandhi Memorial College of Education Bantalab Jammu

THE UGLY KASHMIRI

(Cameos in exile)

ARVIND GIGOO

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G.M. College of Education
Raipur, Bantalab
Jammu.
Acc. No...7367...39...(III)
Dated...20.7.07.....

ARVIND GIGOO

G.M.C.E.J
7367

ALLIED PUBLISHERS PRIVATE LIMITED
NEW DELHI MUMBAI KOLKATA CHENNAI NAGPUR PUNE
AHMEDABAD BANGALORE HYDERABAD LUCKNOW

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Allied Publishers Private Limited

Regd. Off. : 15 J.N. Heredia Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai–400001, Ph.: 022-22626476
E-mail: mumbai.books@alliedpublishers.com
Amber Chambers, 28-A Budhwar Peth, Appa Balwant Chowk, Pune–411002, Ph.: 020-24475743
E-mail: pune.books@alliedpublishers.com
12 Prem Nagar, Ashok Marg, Opp. Indira Bhawan, Lucknow–226001, Ph.: 0522-2614253
E-mail: appltdlko@sify.com
Prarthna Flats (2nd Floor), Navrangpura, Ahmedabad–380009, Ph.: 079-26465916
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3-2-844/6 & 7 Kachiguda Station Road, Hyderabad–500027, Ph.: 040-24619079
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E-mail: cal.books@alliedpublishers.com
81 Hill Road, Ramnagar, Nagpur–440010, Ph.: 0712-2521122
E-mail: ngp.books@alliedpublishers.com
751 Anna Salai, Chennai–600002, Ph.: 044-28523938
E-mail: chennai.books@alliedpublishers.com

Website: www.alliedpublishers.com

© 2006, Arvind Gigoo

Second impression : 2007

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ISBN 10 : 81-8424-036-8
ISBN 13 : 979-81-8424-036-7

Price : Rs. 250.00

Published by Sunil Sachdev and printed by Ravi Sachdev at Allied Publishers Pvt. Ltd., Printing Division, A-104 Mayapuri Phase II, New Delhi - 110064

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An ugly face is better than an ugly mind.

An Italian saying

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Exile is life.

Thomas Mann

Exile is death.

Victor Hugo

Even in Kyoto the cuckoo cries : "I long for Kyoto."

Basho

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For Ahmad the Blacksmith
whom nobody knows
because he is beautiful.

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Preface

Kashmir is a complex dispute between India and Pakistan. Wars and talks have led us nowhere. 'Meaningful dialogues' have resulted in a fruitless wait. Nobody can say what will happen in future.

Political delirium turns people insane, and man, being unpredictable, becomes the enemy of man. When peace bores him he destroys; when destruction tires him he reconstructs. Hatred and love go hand in hand.

The Kashmir of 1989 saw the beginnings of political activity in the shape of militancy and terrorism. The initial bomb blasts provided enough humour to the Kashmiris who laugh at themselves even under conditions that are unpleasant. Sense of humour has always saved the Kashmiris from despair. But in 1990 the magnitude of terror and suspicion silenced all. The Kashmiri Muslims were caught between the security forces and militants. Hundreds got killed. The militants killed many Kashmiri Pandits. Out of terror the Pandits left Kashmir for Jammu.

In Kashmir I was a witness to the events that were terrifying and tragic. In exile I saw the happenings that angered and pained me.

Few people stick to their convictions when uncomfortable circumstances happen. Beliefs and commitments crumble to dust. The talk of values and ideals sounds fine in peace. In troubled times the hollowness, stupidity and ugliness of man come to the fore. A

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liberal man proves irrational and dangerous, and an illiterate underdog or a goon performs a heroic act or a noble deed. Man is an interesting paradox.

The fountainhead of these cameos is my love for all Kashmiris. Some cameos put forward the events that I saw in Kashmir, Jammu and Delhi. Some portray the situations that I have heard about. The authenticity of history is not my concern. When people believe in a falsehood it becomes truth. My observation gives utterance through pithiness. My imagination runs amok to shout my pain, love and anger.

I have never had any political commitment and religious conviction. I go on changing my opinions. I dangle between an idea and its opposite. I am sure about my doubts, vacillations and uncertainties. I have no answers and solutions to offer.

Udhampur **A G**
J and K

Preface to the Second Edition

I have added an appendix, replaced some words, amended a few errors, corrected two inaccuracies and included one more cameo.

Jammu
April 2007 **A G**

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Still

I still am; I am not still.

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Strength

Divided we stand; united we fall.

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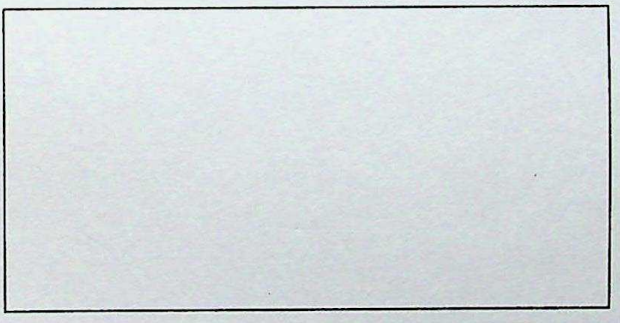
3

Address

My address is :



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36 Hours

He gave me freedom for thirty-six hours;
I gave him freedom for ever.

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A Cheque

On 19 January, 1990 I got a blank cheque which my grand-children will cash.

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The Whisper

"Remember the 5th of March."

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The Time

"What is the time by your watch ?"

"Nine.....and.....half-past nine."

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The Nurse

"We will saw you."

"What have I done ?"

"Nothing."

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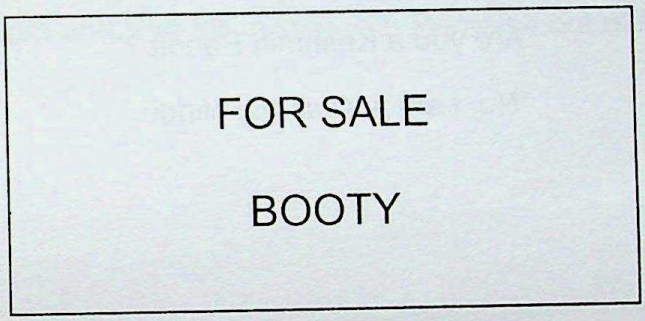
A Sign-board



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A Hindu

"Are you a Kashmiri Pandit ?"

"No, I am a Kashmiri Hindu."

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The Apple

Adam and Eve fell in love with Paradise out of it.

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Conversion
I

"I was a Kashmiri. I have become an Indian."

"Converts are fanatics."

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Conversion
II

"I was for Pakistan. I have become a Kashmiri."

"Converts are liberal."

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Conversion
III

"I was an Indian. I have become a Kashmiri."

"Conversion is the mother of repentance."

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Dilemma

Soldier : "Shave off your beard."

Son : "Grow beard."

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Renaissance

"We must preserve our culture."

"How ?"

"By reviving dead rituals."

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The Leader

"Who is the leader of your Movement ?"

"An invisible man."

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In Eden

He is a poisonous snake.

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Aspirations

"What are your demands ?"

"Only money and independence from you."

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Mein Kampf

"What did you do to regain your homeland ?"

"Tonsure,.....dear,.....tonsure."

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The King

Then the king went to a distant land when his subjects were being killed. And he shed big tears in the Great Hall when his throne was restored.

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Body and Mind

There my mind was here,
Here my mind is there.

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Motherland

I sold off my house and land and everything in Kashmir because Kashmir is my dear motherland.

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The Remark

"They are Brahmins."

We have proved that we aren't Brahmins.

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The Enemy

Soldier : "I missed the target. A child got killed."

Another soldier : "A Pakistani !"

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Ration Card(s)

Passport Officer : "Show me your Ration Card."

"All !!? "

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Emancipation

"Listen ! How can I talk about the plight of Kashmiri Pandits ? I am a secularist."

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Conviction

"Kashmiri should be written in the Devnagri script. I even signed a petition about it."

"But why do you write books in the Nastliq script?"

"Writers believe in freedom."

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The Town Planner with the Broom

He came here to create a new force by sweeping off the ancient force.

A point of view

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Possibilities

There are only three possibilities, and all the three are impossible.

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Hospitality

Summer of 1984

"Dear soldier, have this Kashmiri tea for you are a guest."

Winter of 1990

"You bloody soldier, take this bullet for you are a dog."

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Windfall

This shouldn't end. I have become rich.

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The Dirty Stream

We are happy that this misguided youth has joined the national mainstream now.

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The Warning

Your are not allowed to mourn this man's death otherwise nobody will be allowed to mourn your death.

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Certificates of Permanent Residence

I have snapped all ties with Kashmir. Now I have come to your office to collect the state – subject certificates of my children.

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Suspect

Man : "Please don't beat me. I am an Indian Hindu."

Soldier : "Shut up. In this country every Hindu Indian is a Pakistani."

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Security Officer

Husband : "Why had he entered the house ?"

Wife (*sobbing)* : "He saw and he entered."

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The Interview

"I want a job."

"What are your qualifications ?"

"I am a Kashmiri Pandit and a sufferer."

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Identity

"Why didn't you join any of the parties that took shape here?"

" I want to maintain my identity as an individual."

"Are you an individualist ?"

"No, an individual."

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Patriotism

"Don't send these people back."

"Why ?"

"They will join them."

"We know their Indian-ness."

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Alive

Abdul Jabbar : "Why did you Pandits leave ? Amarnath is still there. Nobody has killed him."

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The Dying Word

His last word was : "Shift !"

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Uncomfortable Comfort

I don't know why I still love those bloody Muslims and hate these fellow Hindus.

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One and Many

One is good,
Many is danger.

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A Tourist

"My dear Kaul Sahib, adaab, I am very happy to see you back home."

"Aziz, I am a tourist."

"My baksheesh, please."

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Son

"Hey, what are you doing ? I have always treated you as my son.....hey.....look.....stop.....you are as.....good.....as.....m..y.....s..o..n.

"Freedom !"

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New Gods

"We have only two gods now.....
Jagmohan and Bal Thackeray."

"When will you forget them?"

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That Country

"Where are you from ?"

"Kashmir."

"Oh,..... that far away country!"

"Patriotic Indian!"

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Incognito

I dress up like a Muslim woman. I don't apply the tilak on my forehead. Yet they know that I am a Pandit woman. They must be intelligent.

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The Sympathizer

"My dear Nila Kanth, Indian soldiers have looted the houses of all Pandits. Why don't you sell your house to me ?"

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This I Am

"I suspect everything; I doubt nothing."

"That thou art !"

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The Enemy

When I see him I don't run away.

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Nero

'What an artist lies in me !"

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The Map

"This is our map."

"The fence is missing."

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The House of God

Thank God, today also my name doesn't figure in the list pasted on the door of the House of God.

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Typewriter
I

The other man is not me.

Typewriter
II

He is the other man.

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Sympathy

"Kill him for his sharp intellect."

But out of sympathy they didn't kill him; they kept him waiting till his eyes closed.

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Tourism

Permanent tourists ! What luck !

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Tongue-twister

Son : Father, who is that man with a strange name ?"

Old father : "He was my soul's brother."

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The Locked Room

"So you have a house of your own now ?"

"And a locked room in the gypsy camp."

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Another Tryst

"Why did you go to the International Debating Club with the proposition ?"

"I had to make a second tryst with destiny."

"Character is destiny."

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A Drop

A tear fell upon the trunk in the truck. It was a Muslim tear.

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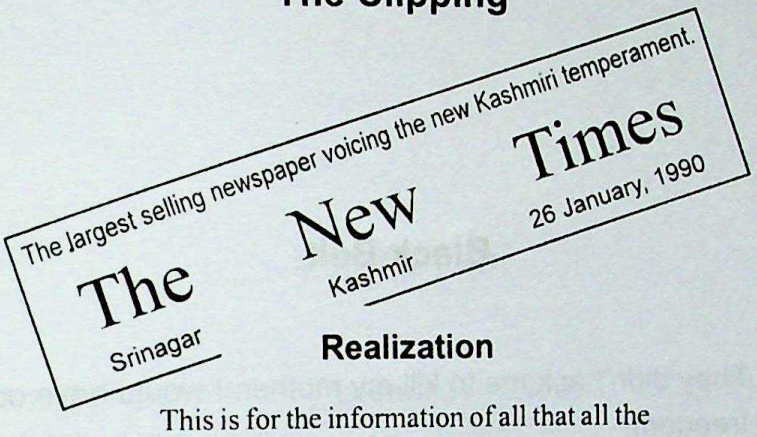
The Clipping



Realization

This is for the information of all that all the members of our family had lost the balance of mind. The mental disease we suffered from continued for forty-eight years. We were associated with a political party. Actually, we have realized now that we were mentally sick. We..... children and all..... disassociate ourselves from the party. We feel sorry for the blunders we made all these years. We have got nothing to do with the party. We apologize. I apologize. We apologize.

Noor Mohd.
and family

Idgah

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Black Belt

Strange! They didn't ask me to kill my mother. I would have done so easily for freedom.

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Deployment

And they deployed the army to enforce curfew, to search the people and to catch young boys.

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The Loss

Your loss is bigger than mine. You lost your house, your land and your property. I lost only my only son.

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From the Grocer to the Baker

And she ran away when she saw him coming. Her comment was:

"This is the Man."

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The French Queen

"What did Marie Antoinette tell her subjects ?"

" 'If you don't have rice, eat potatoes'."

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The Outsider

When he came the first time we made him our saviour;

When he came the second time we made him our destroyer.

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Words

Dear sirs, only in my writings do I say that we must return.
In fact, I am better here.

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Abusage

I have acquired a new word here. Sanskaar. I use it almost daily.

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Slave

A slave doesn't know that he is a slave so long as he is a slave.

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The Slip

The old man saw a 'ray of hope'; his lieutenant said 'those unfortunate people'; the bald iron man felt 'the ground slippery.'

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Truth

Man 1 : " I am a terrible hater of mankind. My only defect is that I love individuals."

Man 2 : " I am a great lover of mankind. My only virtue is that I hate individuals."

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Covenant
I

"Am I your leader ?"
"Yes."

"Am I your leader ?"
"Yes."

"Am I your leader ?"
"Yes."

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Covenant
II

"Am I your leader ?"
"No."

"Am I your leader ?"
"Yes."

"Am I your leader ?"
"Don't know."

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Covenant
III

"Am I not your leader ?"
"No."

"Am I your leader ?"
"No."

"Don't you trust me as your leader ?"
"No."

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The Middle Path

"Merge or leave or perish."

I followed the middle path. The other two will follow me.

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The Catch

Sir, kindly transfer me to Kashmir. I will cash them.....I mean.....
I will catch them and save my country.

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The Return

"We want to return."

"Don't say 'return'; say 'return with honour'."

"What is honour ?"

"....."

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Jammu

And they are spending their last days in the large Old Age Home.

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The Smile

Why are my thought, word and action at variance? I am neither cunning nor calculating nor hypocritical.

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The Intellectual

All are wrong..... except me.

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The Spit

Give me whatever I want; and I will spit at you afterwards.

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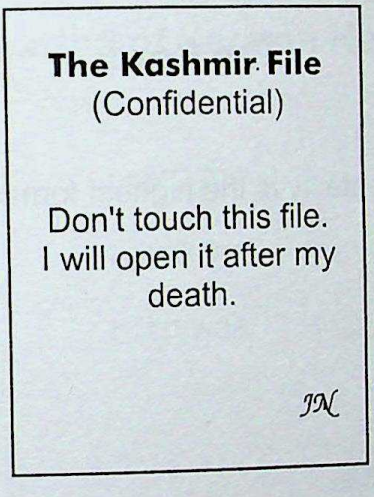
The Forbidden Touch



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The Bowl

Begging mentality is the highest form of morality.

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Siddhartha of Herman Hesse

I can't think;

I can't fast;

I can wait.

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The Orator

".....and I warn my Muslim brothers....."

"This is a slip of the tongue."

"No, a slip of the heart."

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They and We

"When they leave we will be bombarded."

"When we leave they should be bombarded."

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Descendants

Shri Bhat : "Your Highness, please get my brothers and sisters back."

Zain-ul-Abdin : "The boon is granted. My descendants will take care of them."

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Religion

"Which scripture do you read and believe in ?"

"The Holy Almanac."

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Phoenix

"Kripa Ram alone can bring us closer to the Sikhs."

"You are right. The living-dead invoke the dead."

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The Land

"Where do you come from ?"

"No-man's-land."

"Where do you want to go ?"

"No-man's-land."

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The Game

"What game do you play ?"

"Verbal chess."

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The Kill

We salute this man for he is a martyr,
We kill this man for he is a traitor,
We nail this man for he is an informer.

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The Golden Handshake

"Recall your promise made in the Red Square."

"But the woods here are dark and green."

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Martyrs' Day(s)

"When do you mourn your dead heroes ?"

"Twice a year."

"Were they twice-dead ?"

"No, twice-born."

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Out of the Cup

"What exposure !"

"Exposed !"

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Gulmarg and After

The dreamer closed his eyes when the lion was caged; his daughter opened hers when the cub roared; and the young grand-son played in snow.

G.M. College of Education
Raipur, Bantalab
Jammu.
Acc. No....7367.....
Dated...20.7.07.....

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Father

"I fathered him."

"But where is the father ?"

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The Couplet

My body belongs to my dear country,
My heart belongs in the dear country.

The poet

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The Pacifist

"You are a coward."

"No, sir, you are wrong. I am not a coward. I am peace-loving, tolerant, patient, forbearing....."

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The Unifying Force

We are thankful to Jagawatul for having united us against him and them.

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Rest

"What was the nature of your job in Kashmir?"

"..... I have forgotten."

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The Signal

"Our leader is wiping his eyes with a green hankie."

"This is the green-signal."

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Today

Old Muslim woman :
"Fetch me a pot of pulse."

Husband :
"It is beyond my reach now."

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Faith

"What is Shaivism ?"

"Sir, I know nothing about it but I am proud of this faith."

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The Slogan

For forty years their slogan was :

PUMPKINS AND BRINJALS

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Deafness

My grunt is inaudible.

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Accession

My only son got killed. Cursed be my father.

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Spell

I continue to be intelligent although I understood nothing for fifty years.

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At Dawn

Wife : "What about our pet, Sweety ?"

Husband : "Don't tell even him that we are going to Jammu."

Wife : "And papa ji and bhai sahib and ..... ?"

Husband : "Get me the rope and the lock."

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Wife

(A play)

Man 1 : She doesn't know that I don't know.

Man 2 : I don't want to know what I don't know.

Man 3 : I don't know what I know.

Man 4 : She knows that I don't know.

Man 5 : I know what I don't know.

Man 6 : I am proud of her because she is not proud of me.

(Curtain)

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Tea

The coming Friday is going to bring fresh air. We will have independent tea in the Mughal garden.

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Many Faces

"What do you believe in ?"

"Trika."

"What is that ?"

"I am three-in-one."

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Mourner

"Panditji, don't weep over your dead father in my house. This is inauspicious for me."

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Compensation

When the handsome young boy was killed the young mourners carrying guns came with the Book.

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Lunatic

Then one day a madman stood in the middle of the road and shouted :

"Get me a tabor. I want to spread wisdom."

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Real Freedom

I can easily and comfortably live with those Muslims but in no case I can live with my parents and brothers under the same roof.

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Strip-tease

Houseboat : "Where have those good old days gone ?"

"Which days ?"

"When I stripped the tourists."

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Friendship

Soldier :" Identity card !"

Mr. Mohd. Abdullah,
J&K Bank, Srinagar.

"And your identity card ?"

Prof. Ravinder Koul,
Department of English,
Govt. College, Srinagar.

"Where are you two going this time ?"

"Being friends we are having a walk."

"Go."

The soldier thinks : "What kind of friends are they ? I am getting confused. In Bhiwandi it was the reverse."

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Churchill's Sacrilegious Victory Sign

This is blasphemy. The clenched fist is permitted.

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No Work

An engineer : "Look at the corruption. Each family is given five hundred rupees a month without working."

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In Terror

"Mohd. Yaseen, take this money that I owe you. I am leaving this place tomorrow."

"You nasty Pandit, you betrayed our cause. But accept these one thousand rupees from me for you will need them in wilderness."

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The Meet

"I will put on this red saree today."

"And I will put on this navy blue suit and this grey necktie."

A non-Kashmiri : "Where are you going ?"

"To attend the Meet. We are refugees."

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Lingo

"mere bete, hamesha kashmiri zabaan mein baat karo. apne culture ko nahin bhulo."

"O.K., dad."

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"Gods dwell where women are honoured"

And their women were brave. It was they who retrieved their trunks, pillows, druggets and radio sets.

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The Gypsy

"This gypsy is the only true Indian in Indostan."

"This is a revelation."

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Professor as Beacon-light

There is only one big issue in these bad times, and.....and..... that is relief from income tax.

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Between the Two Soldiers

"Who is my protector ? This soldier in uniform or that soldier without uniform ?"

"We two are enemies but both of us will hack you."

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The Duel

In the duel between the wise man and the fool the wise man lost the fool and the fool lost his foolery.

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Removal

We succeeded in rooting out the remnants of feudalism from Kashmir.

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The Fool

"My friend tells me that the unity of the Sikhs after the Chattisinghpura massacre was a slap on us all."

"Your friend is a fool."

"How ?"

"Look at the Kauls, the Dhars, the Shakdhars, the Haksars, the Rainas, the Fotedars....."

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The Wall

"I must identify myself with the Jews."

"Please erect a wall."

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Sensitivity

"Mister, you have fine skin."

"Hide,.....sir,..... hide."

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The Benevolent Mercenary

Praised be the Creator ! I have got a cute baby now.

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Metamorphosis

I have become a woman without changing my sex.

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The Day

"Let us celebrate the Shri Bhat Day."

"O,.....that great doctor who charged a fee that we pay !"

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"Nursing Orderly"

"Sir, the whole populace is on the roads."

"Is it a welcome ?"

"No, sir, it is the beginning of a farewell."

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In School

Teacher : "Well, students, name two benefactors of mankind."

A Pandit boy : "Nehru and Gorbachev !"

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Sure

"I am sure others would have perished."

"You were always sure, Man. You will always be sure."

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The Catapult

"We will pay them and win them."

They won the pay and used the catapult.

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The Cause

"Those who chose to stay there have betrayed our cause."

"What is your cause ?"

"The effect is the cause."

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Holy Places

"And the wisest among them founded Ashrams and erected the replicas of their holy places."

"Do holy places have replicas ?"

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Dirty

"Dirty Kashmiris! But why do I feel smallish before them ?"

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The Bliss of Ignorance

They were foolish. I will settle this long standing issue by imposing curfew for some weeks.

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The anti-Nationalist

"This man says that Nehru's secularism was false and baseless, and that Jinnah's two-nation theory is a living reality."

"He must be an anti-nationalist speaking out the truth."

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The Resolve

"We resolve to preserve the Kashmiri language without reading it, without writing it and without speaking it."

"The motion is carried."

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Blessings

Father and mother were not allowed to weep when their son was killed. Father said, "May God bless you ! My son was a traitor." Then he fell down and died. They say the old mother is still alive blessing the freedom fighters.

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Tête-è-tête

"I am not afraid of things I don't understand."

"The lid is off."

"I call it diversity of unity."

"A wicked mind is stronger than a strong mind."

"How sad ! We are losing karmayogis one after another."

"The only difference between me and our hundred thousand other leaders is that I am the leader — real and genuine and honest and well-meaning."

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In Curfew

Your ailing father has our permission to die in home.....not in the hospital.

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Table-talk

"I have lost my 'I'. That is why I can see."

"When his mask fell he saw me."

"His madness made others feel smallish."

"The introvert failed as an extrovert."

"Foolishness was one of his virtues."

"The liberated parent slept a sleepless sleep."

"He doesn't speak. He farts through his mouth."

"From communism to communalism is just one step."

"I will be when I will not be. In print."

"Never trust your well-wishers."

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The Ploughed Wheel

The plough does not see an eye to eye with the wheel. Therefore, let us plough the wheel.

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Chameleon

From Pakistan to plebiscite to India to Pakistan to independence to anything and anywhere is one breath.

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Hair

Son : "Father, sing me that old song."

Father : "Which one ?"

Son : " 'May your hair burn!'."

Father (*sobbing*): "They grew here and lost hair, and when they crossed the river they burnt their boats."

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Victory Bridge

They named the bridge after the man who had introduced English education to them. And the next day they smashed his bust.

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Defilement

It was the decadent chicken that persecuted me.

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Syndrome

"The kidnappers were hospitable and courteous and soft-spoken."

"Where were you ?"

"Stockholm."

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Extortion

"He takes pay from the government every month and serves somewhere else also."

"Extortionist !"

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Understanding

"Ram bhai, about eighty Muslims cremated the dead body of a lone Pandit. They wept bitterly. Ram bhai, they even offered prayers to their God. Ram bhai, I don't understand all this."

Ram bhai : "Kashmiris, dear brother, Kashmiris ! Don't try to understand them. Even the rulers never tried to do so."

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In and Out of Custody

"This much will do. Take your son."

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Ignorance

I am an educated man. Zooni and Salama and Rashid are illiterate and narrow-minded. Yet they love them and want them back. My education tells me that they are better there. They will deprive me of this job and this huge house.

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The Agreement

"Look here, we will neither arrest you nor kill you provided you don't kill us. We, too, have children."

"The covenant is made."

"Now do as you please."

"We will please your children."

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My Culture

"I am proud of my 5000-year-old culture."

"What is culture ? Tell me something about your culture."

"Humm,..... I am leaving for Maharashtra this time."

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Umbrella Organization

I am the awning.

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The Race

"Oh, ...these cattle !"

"You are a man of culture."

"Of the superior race."

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The Kind Saviour

Relax the curfew at dawn to give them safe passage.

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Justice

"You will be our honourable guest till our man is released."

"If he is not ..... ?"

"Then we will be just."

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The Humanist

"These people must suffer to understand my suffering."

"You are a ..... ?"

"Humanist !"

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Hot Potato

On Monday there was total hartal in response to the call given by the president of a foreign country.

On Tuesday the whole populace welcomed their leader who was a nationalist.

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Celebration

Rascals! They rejoiced when she was assassinated. I did so only when her son perished.

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Introduction

"Please introduce yourself."

"I am my own ancestor."

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Silence

"The Pandits proved very mean. They did not talk about our agony and suffering."

"This silence in the tents and tenements is their undoing."

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Definition of Me

Diaspora : the scattering of the Jews to countries outside of Palestine after the Babylonian captivity; any religious group living as a minority among people of the prevailing region; any group of people dispersed.

emigrate : to leave one country or region to settle in another.

emigration : a body of emigrants.

émigré : a political exile; person who has left his country or native place, usually for political reasons.

exile : prolonged separation from one's country or home, as by stress of circumstances.

exodus : a going out; a departure of a large number of people.

immigrant : a person who migrates to a country for permanent residence.

migrant : one who or that which migrates, as a migratory worker.

migration : a number or body of persons or animals migrating together.

refugee : one who flees for safety to a foreign country as in time of political upheaval.

"Which is me ?"

"Any word which suits us."

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The Search

When the soldiers entered the house they saw a young man making love to a young woman. They asked the old woman: "Who is this man ?"

Quick came the reply : "My son-in-law:"

And the soldiers left.

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Damn Books

It is said that during Exodus the foolish Jews carried even their manuscripts with them.

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Four Million

(A short story)

The ambassador entered the grand palace, bobbed a courtesy and respectfully asked the king :

"Your Highness, how many subjects support you ?"

"Four million."

"And how many support your opponent ?"

"Four million."

"And how many support the king of your enemy country ?"

"Four million."

"What is the population of your kingdom ?"

"Four million."

"Your Highness, may you and your opponent and the king of your enemy country live long! And may the population increase !"

The king said to his loyal courtier :

"Give this man gold coins for he also supports me, too."

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Rootless

I am where I am not; therefore, I am not where I am.

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What Now ?

"See you in Panun Kashmir."

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The Author

"Who is the author of these cameos ?"

"An anti-Kashmiri Pandit."

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Appendix

(These notes hint at the historical and political events that took place in Kashmir from time to time, and touch the sociological aspects of the Kashmiri ethos.)

vii "Exile is life." : Thomas Mann—The youth of Kashmiri Pandits.

vii "Exile is death." : Victor Hugo—Elderly/Old Kashmiri Pandits.

vii "Even in Kyoto..." : Basho—Kashmiri Muslims

Cameo No.

1. Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims.

2. Even the mass migration did not unite Kashmiri Pandits. ('Stand')

4. In 1990 a militant organization, through the columns of an Urdu daily, warned Kashmiri Pandits to leave the valley in thirty-six hours.

5. The movement started on 19-01-1990.

6. In February 1990 Kashmiri Pandits asked one another to leave Kashmir by the 5th of March.

Caesar : What say'st thou to me now ? Speak once again.

Soothsayer : Beware the ides of March.

Act I Scene II *Julius Caesar* Shakespeare.

7. The Indian time and the Pakistani time. ('Nine'). 1990

11. Kashmiri Pandit's love for Kashmir.

12. Kashmiri Pandits.

13. Kashmiri Muslims.

14. Kashmiri Pandits.

17. Freedom Movement of Kashmiri Muslims.

18. Militant about Kashmiri Pandits.

20. *Mein Kampf* : *My Struggle. My Work*

In Kashmiri : Myaen Kaem

24. (1) Zia-ul-Haq's remark about Kashmiri Muslims.

(2) Kashmiri Pandits (Brahmins).

27. An Indian politician.

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29. Jagmohan, the Governor of J&K from 1990 till he resigned. The Kashmiri Muslims had nicknamed him "Sweeper".

30. India, Pakistan and independent Jammu and Kashmir.

31. When Dr. Farooq Abdullah was removed in 1984 Indian Army was deployed in the valley, and the Kashmiri Muslims offered them tea and snacks. When Jagmohan was made the Governor again in 1990 the Kashmiri militants came out with the guns to kill the soldiers.

32. Some Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits.

34. The militants kill a Kashmiri.

35. Kashmiri Pandits. The State Subject Certificates are issued to the people of J&K State only.

42. Each Kashmiri Pandit has been using the word "Shift" thousands of times because families go on shifting from house to house. ('Shift')

44. Kashmiri Muslim.

46. Rape ('Freedom')

47. Kashmiri Pandits consider Jagmohan a saviour. Bal Thackeray got seats reserved for their children in the engineering colleges in Maharashtra.

48. For many Indians Kashmir is a distant country.

51. Doubt is the beginning of philosophy.

53. Nero (A.D. 37-68), Emperor of Rome, A.D. 54-68. His last words were : "What an artist dies in me!" "Lies".

54. "Panun Kashmir" came out with a map of separate homeland for Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir.

56. Jinnah said : "My typewriter bore Pakistan." (1) His personal physician was a Hindu whom he trusted. (2) He did not trust his Hindu colleagues. ("The other man": Hindu)

57. Kashmiri Pandit. "They": The politicians and the central leadership.

Cinna : I am Cinna the poet, I am Cinna the poet.

4th Citizen : Tear him for his bad verses, tear him for his bad verses.

Cinna : I am not Cinna the conspirator.

Act III Scene III *Julius Caesar* Shakespeare.

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58. 2,00,000 Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu.

59. A young Kashmiri Muslim boy hasn't seen a Kashmiri Pandit.

61. United Nations. "Tryst with destiny" Nehru's famous speech.

63. The nineties: "New times." 26 January : the Republic Day of India.

64. 'Black Belt': Karate.

67. In 1372 A.D. when Shah Hamdan came from Iran to Kashmir to preach Islam, Lal Ded, the greatest mystic poet (1318-1389), who roamed the streets of Kashmir in a semi-nude state, asked a grocer to give her shelter. When he refused she went to a baker and, as the legend says, jumped into the oven. She had said, "A man is coming."

68. The French Queen Marie Antoinette (1755-1793) said to the people of France: "If you do not have bread eat cakes."

69. Jagmohan as the Governor of J&K State.

73. Gandhi, Nehru and Sardar Patel.

75. God : "Am I your God ?"

76. The reply : 'Yes'.

77.

78. "Merge or leave or perish" : to Pandits. Attributed to Amar Nath Kak, the brother of Ram Chand Kak (Prime Minister of J&K 1945-46).

81. Only old couples live in Jammu.

85. Nehru.

87. Siddhartha in Herman Hesse's novel *Siddhartha* says:

I can think.

I can fast.

I can wait.

A Kashmiri Pandit can only wait.

89. A Kashmiri Muslim thinks.

A Kashmiri Pandit thinks. 1990.

90. Zain-ul-Abdin (1420-1470) was one of the greatest kings of Kashmir. Shri Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit doctor, cured him of an illness.

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92. Kripa Ram was a Kashmiri Pandit who, during the reign of the Afghan ruler Iftikar Khan (1671-1675), ran away from Kashmir along with five hundred Kashmiri Pandits and went to Guru Teg Bahadur, the Sikh guru, and sought his help to save Kashmiri Pandits from persecution.

95. Militants say this.

96. In 1948 Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah shook hands at the Red Square in Srinagar where Nehru promised the Kashmiris plebiscite. Line from Frost's poem. Nehru's favourite.

97. 13th of July is the Martyrs' Day in J&K. The militants in the nineties fixed some other day as the Martyrs' Day. ("Twice-born")

98. Kashmiri Pandits out of the valley.

99. Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah was arrested in Gulmarg in 1953. Nehru. Sheikh. Indira Gandhi. Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Rajiv Gandhi.

101. Mahjoor, a Kashmiri poet, recited a couplet in 1949.

(i) India (ii) Pakistan.

103. Jagmohan whom Kashmiri Muslims had nicknamed 'Jagawatul'.

104. Many Kashmiri Pandit govt. employees have not been doing anything for the past 17 years.

105. A leader of Kashmiri Muslims.

106. Nickname given to the Kashmiri Pandit by the Kashmiri Muslim is "Pot of pulse".

108. The slogan of Kashmiri Muslims till Sheikh Abdullah died.

109. "My grunt" and "migrant".

111. Kashmiri Pandit.

113. Wife has lost her virtue.

114. Kashmiri Muslims in 1990.

115. "Trika" : Shaivism. Kashmiri Pandit.

116. Some Dogras of Jammu.

117. An innocent boy killed in firing.

122. In 1990 Kashmiri Muslims showed this victory sign. The militants and fundamentalists directed them to change to the clenched fist.

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123. A Pandit family was given Rs. 500 a month as relief.

125. Kashmiri Pandits' World Conference held at New Delhi in 1993.

126. Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims.

127. Thousands of Kashmiri Pandit women went to Kashmir in 1990 to salvage goods left in their houses.

128. "Gypsy" : Kashmiri Pandit.

130. Kashmiri Muslim questions.

132. Kashmiri Pandits.

133. The unity of the Kauls, Dhars, Shakdhars, Haksars, Rainas, Fotedars who did not even visit the migrants at Jammu.

134. The Weeping Wall of Jews.

135. Insensitivity of Kashmiris. ('Hide')

137. Pandit men attend to domestic chores.

138. Shri Bhat, a doctor, made the king Zain-ul-Abdin (1420-1470) bring back Kashmiri Pandits who had migrated to other places.

139. When Jagmohan took over as the Governor of J&K in January 1990 he called himself "Nursing Orderly". He had been very popular among Kashmiris.

142. The policy of the Govt. of India.

144. Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country.

146. Jagmohan.

148. Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims.

150. Conversation between a Kashmir Muslim and a Kashmiri Pandit.

152. Kashmiri Muslim and Kashmiri Pandit.

153. 'Plough' on the flag of Jammu and Kashmir. 'Wheel' on the national flag.

155. Some Kashmiri Muslim urchins used to tease Kashmiri Pandit women by singing : "Panditani, Panditani, may your hair burn!" "Son" misses Kashmiri Pandits.
('Here', 'Hair')

156. Tyndale Biscoe.

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157. Seha Bhatta, a Kashmiri Pandit, was a minister during the reign of Sikander who ruled Kashmir from 1389 to 1413 A.D. When Seha fell ill a Muslim doctor advised him to eat chicken. When he did so Kashmiri Pandits excommunicated him. (Decadence!) Seha Bhatta embraced Islam, changed his name to Saif Malik and persecuted Pandits. He became a merciless tormentor and persecutor.

158. 'Stockholm Syndrome'.

165. All organizations formed one group. "I am France."

166. The Dogras of Jammu and Pandits.

167. The Kashmiri Pandits left Kashmir at dawn.

170. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's call. Sheikh Abdullah's coming the next day.

171. Sikhs and Indira. Pandits and Rajiv.

172. (1) The previous migrations of Kashmiri Pandits in history.

(2) Ancestors of Kashmiri Muslims.

174. Politician speaks the last sentence.

176. Kashmiri Pandits left all old manuscripts in Kashmir.

177. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, the Prime Minister of J&K from 1953 upto 1963, is reported to have said so when asked how many Kashmiris supported him and his opponent Sheikh Abdullah.

179. Pastime.

180. Two readers. The one who answers the question is a Kashmiri Pandit.

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Satire, irony, pathos, black humour, despair, sarcasm, anger, nostalgia, love and compassion make up these cameos. They are about Kashmiri Muslims, Kashmiri Pandits (called 'migrants'), security forces, militants, politicians, intellectuals, common people, women and other sections of the Kashmiri society. The cameos are terse, meaty and aphoristic, and convey the author's poignant view of the happenings in Kashmir and elsewhere. Each cameo is a bleeding piece of truth.

A book of paradoxical, cynical and gnomic reflections drawing the readers into a subtle sort of vertigo. The author writes with insolent honesty, and provokes and incites defiance. The underlying theme of a need for change from ugliness to beauty runs throughout.

Arvind Gigoo was born at Srinagar in Kashmir in 1945. He left Kashmir in 1990 due to the political turmoil and terrorism there. These days he lives in Jammu.

ISBN 81-8424-036-8

Cover photograph : *Head* (Wood) by A G

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